

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05

OMB-01 OPR-02 A-01 /066 W

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R 090750Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4522

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3525

FOLLOWING TEL MADRAS 466 DTD 08 MAR 76 RCVD NEW DELHI  
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 466

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: TAMIL NADU: PROGRESS OF SARKARIA COMMISSION INQUIRY  
INTO CHARGES AGAINST FORMER DMK REGIME

1. JUSTICE R.S. SARKARIA, A JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT, WHO WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOI ON FEBRUARY 9 AS A ONE-MAN COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AGAINST FORMER DMK MINISTRY INCLUDING FORMER CHIEF MINISTER M. KARUNANIDHI, WILL BEGIN HEARINGS IN THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE COMMISSION HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO HOLD THE HEARINGS IN NEW DELHI OR MADRAS THOUGH PART OF THE INQUIRY IS ALMOST SURE TO BE HELD IN MADRAS SINCE PRESUMABLY MUCH OF THE EVIDENCE AGAINST KARUNANIDHI AND OTHERS IS ONLY AVAILABLE HERE.

2. MEANWHILE B. VIJAYARAGHAVAN, FORMER SECRETARY OF THE GOT PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY IN THE PUBLIC DEPARTMENT TO COORDINATE MATTERS RELATING TO THE SARKARIA COMMISSION, ASSUMED HIS NEW POST ON MARCH 1. HIS IMMEDIATE TASK WILL BE THE COLLECTION OF MATERIALS

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RELATING TO THE CHARGES OF CORRUPTION REFERRED TO THE COMMISSION

FOR INQUIRY. VIJAYARAGHAVAN IS EXPECTED TO VISIT DELHI SHORTLY TO DISCUSS WITH JUSTICE SARKARIA MATTERS RELATING TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE INQUIRY. THE PROCEDURE TO BE ADOPTED IN GIVING EVIDENCE WILL PROBABLY BE ANNOUNCED SOON THEREAFTER.

3. A TEN-MEMBER OFFICIAL TEAM WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOTN ON FEBRUARY 26 TO ASSIST VIJAYARAGHAVAN IN CLASSIFYING THE PETITIONS AND IN COLLECTING INFORMATION ON THE CHARGES AND A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION POLICE TEAM IS LIKELY TO BE APPOINTED TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION. MEANWHILE, ARMED POLICE GUARDS WERE POSTED AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT NEAR THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER ON MARCH 2, REPORTEDLY TO PROVIDE PROTECTION TO THOSE PERSONS COMING FORWARD TO FILE DOCUMENTS AND PETITIONS AGAINST THE FORMER DMK REGIME.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD THAT GOVERNOR K.K. SHAH'S TERM HAS BEEN EXTENDED, PROBABLY UNTIL THE SARKARIA COMMISSION FINDINGS ARE COMPLETED. THE GOVERNOR'S TEAM WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO END SOON, BUT SINCE THE CHARGES AGAINST KARUNANIDHI AND THE DMK WERE BROUGHT BY SHAH, IT WOULD SEEM REASONABLE HE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO STAY HERE UNTIL THE HEARINGS ARE FINISHED.

MCCASKILL

UNQUOTE  
SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, IN, (SARKARIA, R S), (KARUNANIDHI, M)  
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